

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 NEAE-00
/100 W

-----001565 221443Z /44

P R 221415Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2903
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MO, SS
SUBJECT: KING HASSAN'S AUGUST 20 SPEECH

1. IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS TO THE NATION AUGUST 20 ON THE 24TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FATHER'S BANISHMENT BY THE FRENCH, KING HASSAN DELIVERED A BRIEF, LARGELY NON-SUBSTANTIVE PEP TALK TO HIS PEOPLE. AS USUAL, HE AVOIDED MENTION OF THE FRENCH BUT RECALLED THE UNITY WHICH MOHAMMED V'S EXILE ENGENDERED, CALLING ON HIS COUNTRYMEN TO EMBRACE THIS UNITY FOR FUTURE UNSPECIFIED TESTS. HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO ISTIQLALI INDEPENDENCE LEADER ALLAL AL FASSI'S ROLE IN HELPING TO FORCE THE FRENCH TO PERMIT MOHAMMED V'S RETURN. IN AN ALLUSION TO THE SOON-TO-BE-CONVENED PARLIAMENT, THE KING NOTED THAT EVERY CITIZEN NOW HAD HIS OWN "LEGITIMATELY INSTALLED REPRESENTATIVE" THROUGH WHOM HE SHOULD WORK.

2. KING HASSAN REVEALED THAT 12-13,000 TROOPS HAD RECENTLY
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CONDUCTED A SWEEP IN THE SAHARA IN ORDER TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION THERE AND TO TRAIN WITH THEIR EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THAT HE COULD FULLY ASSURE HIS COUNTRYMEN THAT THE "SO-CALLED POLISARIO" WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A "MYTH".

3. COMMENT: THE KING DID NOT ANNOUNCE HIS PRIME MINISTER, AS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RUMORED (RABAT 4584). HIS PAEAN TO THE

FORMER ISTIQLALI LEADER WAS AN UNUSUAL ROYAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE NATION'S DEBT TO THIS POLITICAL FIGURE AND PERHAPS REFLECTS ISTIQLAL'S CURRENT GOOD GRACES WITH THE PALACE.

4. THE TIMING AND FORUM OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SAHRA OPERATION WERE SOMEWHAT CURIOUS, BUT ARE PROBABLY DUE TO ONGOING DISCUSSIONS FOR THE PROPOSED OAU SPECIAL SAHARA SUMMIT AND REFLECT THE GOM'S DESIRE TO PORTRAY THE SAHARA SITUATION AS BEING WELL IN HAND.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT04642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-0885
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770837/aaaabezl.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b065fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1526919
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING HASSAN'S AUGUST 20 SPEECH
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, MOPS, MO, SS, (HASSAN, KING)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b065fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009